

HOUSE BILL 810

C7
HB 1099/11 – W&M

2lr0604

By: **Prince George's County Delegation**
Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2012
Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Prince George's County – Volunteer Fire Departments – Poker Events**

3 **PG 303–12**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing certain volunteer fire departments in Prince George's
5 County to hold poker events in which the public may play poker card games;
6 limiting the number of poker events that a volunteer fire department may hold;
7 requiring that a volunteer fire department obtain a permit from the Prince
8 George's County Department of Environmental Resources before holding a
9 poker event; limiting the days on which poker events may be held; specifying a
10 certain requirement that a volunteer fire department must meet to qualify for a
11 permit; specifying that the Department may issue permits under certain
12 circumstances; specifying the period for which a permit is valid; allowing a
13 permit to be renewed under certain circumstances; specifying that the
14 conditions under which a permit for a poker event is issued shall be the same
15 with certain exceptions that apply to a charitable gaming event permit under
16 the Prince George's County Code; and generally relating to volunteer fire
17 departments and poker events in Prince George's County.

18 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
19 Article – Criminal Law
20 Section 13–1902(a)
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (2002 Volume and 2011 Supplement)

23 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
24 Article – Criminal Law
25 Section 13–1912
26 Annotated Code of Maryland
27 (2002 Volume and 2011 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
2 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

3 **Article – Criminal Law**

4 13–1902.

5 (a) This subtitle applies only in Prince George’s County.

6 13–1912.

7 (a) In this section:

8 (1) “casino night” means a benefit performance at which:

9 (i) a card game, wheel of chance, or roulette is played; and

10 (ii) money winnings or tokens redeemable in money are
11 awarded as prizes; but

12 (2) “casino night” does not include a benefit performance at which the
13 only form of gaming is a wheel of fortune, big wheel, or other wheel of chance.

14 (b) (1) **[This] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS**
15 **SECTION, THIS** subtitle and Subtitle 2 of this title do not authorize casino nights in
16 the county.

17 (2) **[A] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS**
18 **SECTION, A** person may not conduct a casino night in the county.

19 **(C) (1) A VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT MAY CONDUCT A POKER**
20 **EVENT THAT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC IN WHICH ONLY POKER CARD GAMES ARE**
21 **PLAYED.**

22 **(2) A VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT HOLD MORE THAN**
23 **ONE POKER EVENT PER MONTH.**

24 **(3) A POKER EVENT MAY BE HELD ONLY ON A FRIDAY OR**
25 **SATURDAY.**

26 **(4) BEFORE CONDUCTING A POKER EVENT, A VOLUNTEER FIRE**
27 **DEPARTMENT SHALL OBTAIN A PERMIT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF**
28 **ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES.**

1 **(5) TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A PERMIT, A VOLUNTEER FIRE**
2 **DEPARTMENT SHALL HAVE OPERATED IN THE COUNTY FOR AT LEAST 10 YEARS**
3 **BEFORE SUBMITTING A PERMIT APPLICATION.**

4 **(6) (I) SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH,**
5 **THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES ON OR AFTER JULY 15,**
6 **2011, MAY ISSUE PERMITS FOR THE HOLDING OF POKER EVENTS.**

7 **(II) THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT ISSUE A PERMIT IF THE**
8 **ISSUANCE WOULD CAUSE THE NUMBER OF ACTIVE PERMITS AT ANY TIME TO**
9 **EXCEED 30.**

10 **(III) IF THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES MORE APPLICATIONS**
11 **THAN AVAILABLE PERMITS, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL HOLD A LOTTERY TO**
12 **SELECT THE PERMIT RECIPIENTS.**

13 **(7) A PERMIT:**

14 **(I) IS VALID FOR 6 MONTHS AFTER IT IS ISSUED; AND**

15 **(II) MAY BE RENEWED UNLESS THE PERMIT HOLDER FAILS**
16 **TO COMPLY WITH COUNTY LAW.**

17 **(8) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED UNDER PARAGRAPHS (1) AND (2) OF**
18 **THIS SUBSECTION, CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH A PERMIT FOR A POKER EVENT**
19 **IS ISSUED SHALL BE THE SAME AS THOSE THAT APPLY TO A CHARITABLE**
20 **GAMING EVENT PERMIT UNDER SUBTITLE 5, DIVISION 2 OF THE PRINCE**
21 **GEORGE'S COUNTY CODE, INCLUDING REQUIREMENTS FOR PERMIT**
22 **APPLICATIONS, USE OF PROCEEDS, HOURS OF OPERATION, WORKER LICENSING,**
23 **ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTING, FEES, AND PRIZE AMOUNTS.**

24 **[(c)] (D)** A person who violates this section or a county ordinance enacted
25 under this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to
26 imprisonment not exceeding 3 years or a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or both.

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
28 July 1, 2012.